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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q64317

Makoto KUROKAWA

Appln. No.: 09/842,649

Group Art Unit: 2161

Confirmation No.: 1441

Examiner: K. Padmanabhan

Filed: April 27, 2001

For: METHOD OF MAKING RESERVATIONS AND CHECKING WAIT STATE FOR  
FACILITY UTILIZATION

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

1. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 11-338916, published December 10, 1999 with English Abstract.
2. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 10-149391, published June 2, 1998 with English Abstract.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date for an application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA) under §1.53(d); (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3)

Makoto KUROKAWA  
09/842,649  
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

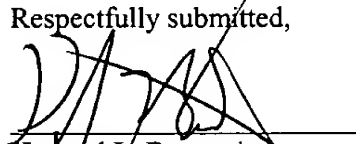
Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a corresponding Japanese Office Action dated April 8, 2003 and an English translation of the pertinent portions thereof, which cites such documents and indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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WASHINGTON OFFICE



23373

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date: July 3, 2003

Substitute for Form 1449 A &amp; B/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

1

of

1

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/842,649
Confirmation Number	1441
Filing Date	April 27, 2001
First Named Inventor	Makoto KUROKAWA
Art Unit	2161
Examiner Name	K. Padmanabhan
Attorney Docket Number	Q64317

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)		
		US			
		US			
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## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)			
		JP	11-338916	A	12/10/1999	Matsushita Electric Works Ltd.	English Abstract
		JP	10-149391	A	06/02/1998	Hitachi Ltd.	English Abstract

## OTHER ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation <sup>6</sup>

Examiner Signature

Date Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov), MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.

Ref Q64317

- Claims 1 through 7
- Cited Literature 1, 2
- Remarks

Described in Cited Literature 1 is a hospital scheduling system in which it is possible to make a connection between a household terminal and the hospital system through a communications circuit, display the scheduled receiving and waiting times of the hospital, and cancel an appointment, etc. from the home. There is no particular technical difficulty in adopting the well-known Internet as the communications circuit (if necessary, refer to Cited Literature 2), and when doing so, a person skilled in the art could easily conceive of displaying the scheduled receiving and waiting times of the hospital, and of conducting processing such as canceling appointments through a web page.

#### List of Cited Literature

1. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication H11-338916
2. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication H10-149391